



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application: Tianqing He et al.

Filing Date: 11/15/03

Examiner: Jiping Lu

Serial No: 10/714,471

Art Unit: 3749

Invention: DEVICE AND METHODS FOR RAPID DRYING OF POROUS MATERIALS

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Commissioner of Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir or Madam:

This is written in response to an Office Action of January 29, 2007.

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner uses 35 U.S.C. § 102/103 to reason that Claim 23 is either anticipated by, or obvious over, Wennerstrum et al., U. S. Patent #4,882,851. This Examiner used language as similar to previous rejections. The Applicant therefore incorporates by reference herein arguments made in response to these rejections in the past, including those made in a Request for Continued Examination mailed on November 6, 2005, in a Response to an Office Action dated December 1, 2005, a Response to an Office Action mailed on March 1, 2006, and a Request for Continued Examination mailed on November 3, 2006. In addition to these arguments made previously and incorporated by reference herein, the Applicant will make the new arguments in the following paragraph.

When carefully reviewed, the Wennerstrum '851 reference has no discussion regarding specifics of the pump construction used by Wennerstrum. It simply refers to a pump. Applicant will note that there are many applications where it is undesirable and/or dangerous to have a pump that can achieve vacuum below a certain level. For example, in medical application such as